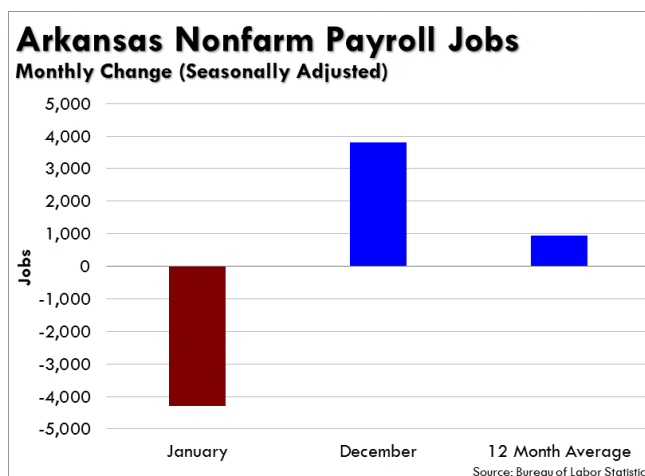
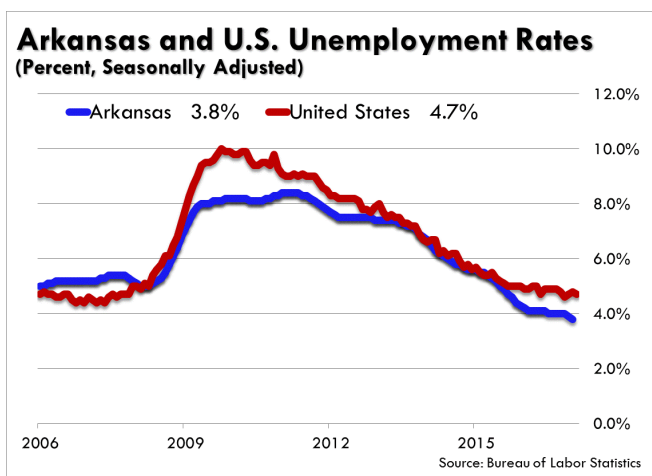


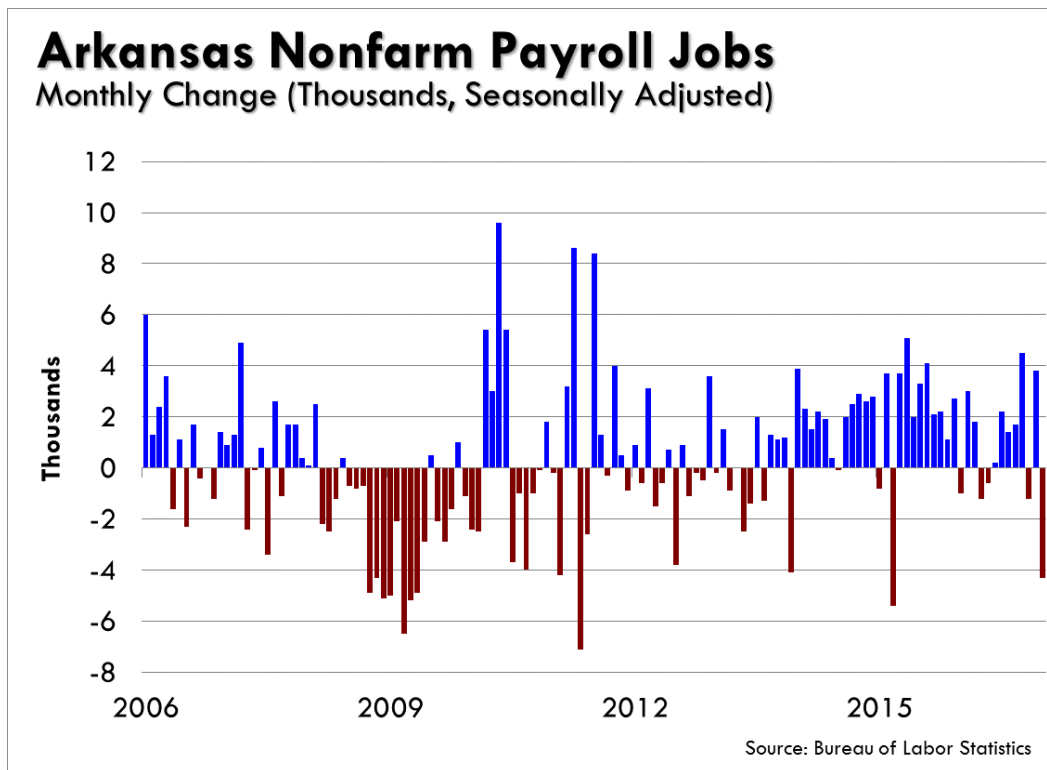


**March 14, 2017**

### **Summary**

- **Arkansas lost 4,300 jobs and the unemployment rate declined by 0.1 percentage point to 3.8 percent in January** according to Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data.
- **Over the past twelve months, Arkansas added 11,300 jobs** and the unemployment rate fell by 0.4 percentage point from 4.2 percent.
- **In January, Arkansas's private sector lost 4,400 jobs** and over the past twelve months it created 12,800 jobs.
- The number of **unemployed Arkansans fell by 2,098 in January**, and over the past year 2,353 Arkansans lost jobs.
- Arkansas's **labor force participation rate decreased to 57.6 percent** from 57.7 percent in January. Since last year, the labor force participation rate fell 0.7 percentage point.
- The national unemployment rate **declined by 0.1 percentage point to 4.7 percent in February**. State employment and unemployment data for February is scheduled for release on March 24, 2017. The national employment situation report for March will be released on Friday, April 7, 2017.





## **Arkansas Payroll Employment**

Arkansas lost 4,300 jobs, or 0.35 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during January. In the prior month, Arkansas added 3,800 jobs. Over the past twelve months, nonfarm payrolls in Arkansas increased by 11,300, or 0.92 percent. Arkansas nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 8 of the past 12 months.

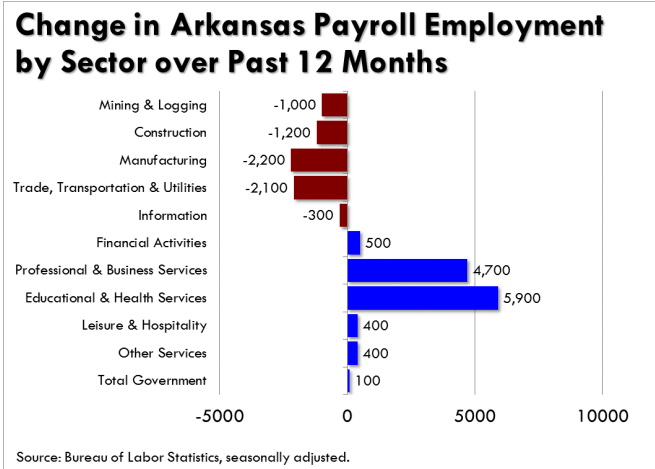
Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 235,000 jobs in February, or 0.16 percent. Over the 12-month period ending February 2017, nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,350,000 jobs, or 1.64 percent. Arkansas ranks 40th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During January, Arkansas's private-sector lost 4,400 jobs, or 0.43 percent. The private-sector in Arkansas added 3,700 jobs in the prior month. Over the past twelve months, private-sector payrolls in Arkansas increased by 12,800, or 1.27 percent. Arkansas private-sector payroll employment has increased in 8 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private-sector payroll jobs increased by 227,000 jobs in February, or 0.18 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,156,000 jobs in the private-sector, an increase of 1.78 percent. Arkansas ranks 40th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private-sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during January were Manufacturing (+700) and Financial Activities (+400). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-1,900) and Leisure & Hospitality (-1,800).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Educational & Health Services (+6,800) and Professional & Business Services (+3,000). The poorest performing sectors during the last twelve months were Total Government (-1,500) and Mining & Logging (-1,100).



## Arkansas Labor Force Statistics

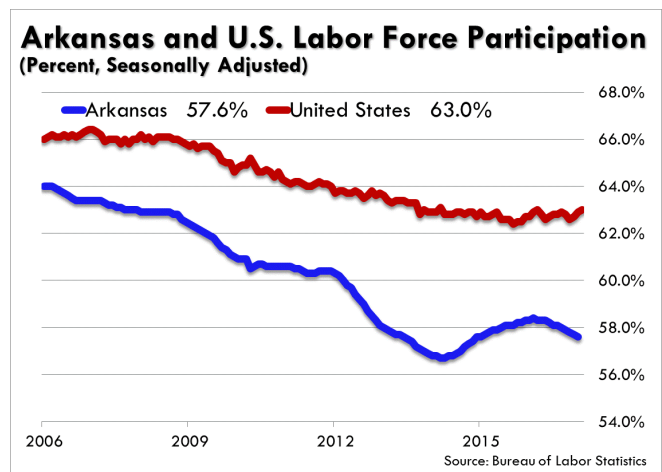
### *Labor Force Participation*

The labor force participation rate in Arkansas declined to 57.6 percent in January from 57.7 percent the prior month. At 57.6 percent, Arkansas has one of the five lowest labor force participation rates in the nation. The labor force participation rate in Arkansas is unchanged from a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in Arkansas was 63.4 percent in March 2007. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Arkansas occurred in January 1995 when the labor force participation rate hit 65.1 percent. The 10-year low for the labor force participation rate was 56.7 percent in April 2014. This also represents the series low for the labor force participation rate in Arkansas. The national labor force participation rate rose by 0.1 percentage point to 63.0 percent in February, but remains near its 38-year low of 62.4 percent.

### *Employment-to-Population Ratio*

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Arkansas civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, was unchanged at 55.4 percent in January. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 45 have higher employment-to-population ratios than



Arkansas. The employment-to-population ratio in Arkansas is 0.5 percentage point lower than a year earlier.

The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Arkansas was 60.1 percent in February 2007. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Arkansas occurred in January 1995 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 62.0 percent. The 10-year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 53.0 percent in January 2014. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in March 2014 when the employment-to-population ratio was 53.0 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio rose by 0.1 percentage point to 60.0 percent in February. That rate was 0.2 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 in April 2000. The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.4 percent in December 2006. The recent low occurred in October 2013 when the employment-to-population ratio dipped to 58.2 percent. The last time the employment-to-population ratio posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

